

Today, Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) issued the following statement regarding the passage of H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009, a bill that will create the most comprehensive national vehicle research and development program to date:

“At a time when our economy is struggling to recover and our environment is in danger, any step to stoke American innovation, protect American jobs, and restore our environment is one in the right direction.

I proudly co-sponsored and voted for the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009 because our transportation industry, economy, and environment need all the help they can get. Whether that help comes in the form of \$550 million per year towards programs to improve fuel efficiency, the creation of programs to develop hybrid technologies and hydrogen fuel cells, or the jobs created by bolstering our research and development industry, the impact of this initiative will be felt by every American.

Green technology and green jobs are the future of this country. Following the success of Cash for Clunkers and pending the Senate’s consideration of ACES, this bill will build upon the achievements of this Congress and keep us moving forward on a cleaner and greener path.”

H.R. 3246 furthers Congress’ work to reduce our dependence on petroleum, reduce dangerous CO₂ emissions, strengthen our economy, and protect American jobs. To this end, the legislation strengthens and reauthorizes the Department of Energy’s Vehicle Technologies Program, which invests in a diverse range of near-term and long-range technologies to improve fuel efficiency, support domestic research and manufacturing, and lead to greater consumer choice of vehicle technologies and fuels.

The bipartisan Advanced Vehicle Technology Act is supported by a broad coalition, including labor groups like the United Autoworkers, auto companies such as Ford Motor Company, General Motors and Chrysler, business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers, and environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council.

Congressman Quigley has a strong record of working to protect our environment and supporting investment in green infrastructure and transportation. While a member of the Cook County Board, Congressman Quigley was called the, “greenest elected official in Chicago”, and sponsored every major piece of environmental legislation in his decade of service. During his time as a member of Congress, Quigley has fought to support green jobs initiatives, and efforts supporting local transportation.

H.R. 3246 [passed the House of Representatives](#) this afternoon.